

Arab newsmen urge dialogue

BEIRUT, Feb. 2 (R)—Representatives from 14 official Arab news agencies today called for constructive talks with foreign organisations but urged the Arab press to depend on their own agencies as main source of news. The conference of the Union of Arab News Agencies also decided to suspend membership of the Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) and the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) for failing to pay overdue subscriptions. News agencies represented at the three-day meeting were from Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Libyan Janubiyah, Morocco, Mauritania and South Yemen. The Palestinian News Agency WAFA was also represented. The conference called for a constructive dialogue with foreign news agencies and information media to establish a balanced and objective flow of news that did not distort facts about Arab countries.

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AMMAN, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1979 — RABIE AWAL 6, 1399

British punk star dies of overdose

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (R)—British punk rock star Sid Vicious died of an overdose of heroin here today, one day after he was freed from jail while awaiting trial on charges of murdering his girlfriend last year. Vicious' death was reported to police by his latest girlfriend, Michelle Robinson, who said she found the musician dead in bed at her Greenwich Village apartment. The 21-year-old Briton, whose real name was John Simon Ritchie, had been in a New York prison until yesterday when he was freed on \$50,000 bail. He was charged with the stabbing to death of 28-year-old Nancy Spungen last October. The gangly, spiked-hair Vicious denied the charge, but the district attorney's office later released an alleged confession he made to them. The trial was not expected to start for two more months. He had been treated for heroin addiction after his arrest. A police spokesman said Vicious "did not intend to kill himself. It was an accident."

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

After banning press conference

Israel prevents W. Bank mayors from prayer

HEBRON, West Bank, Feb. 2 (R)—The military governor of the occupied West Bank, who yesterday banned a press conference called by local Arab mayors, today prevented them from attending morning prayer services at Al Haram Al Ibrahim in Hebron. Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasmeh had invited foreign newsmen to a press conference at his town hall today to hear complaints about recent Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank.

But shortly after his invitation was telephoned to newsmen, he was informed by the military government that the meeting was banned as it was political in nature and was therefore not permitted because it might inflame local feelings between Israelis and Arabs, municipal sources said.

Political activity by local leaders has been banned since 1967, when Israel captured the area.

Security sources said the mayor of Hebron therefore organised a mass meeting by mayors and two such religious leaders from the West Bank, at the Ibrahim Mosque, traditional site of the tombs of the biblical patriarchs venerated by Jews and Moslems.

Their convoy of cars was turned back at a roadblock near the village of Halhul just north of Hebron, where speeches were delivered by several mayors denouncing a new timetable for Jewish and Moslem prayers at the holy site.

The government claims that the

Defence Ministry two weeks ago amended a previous timetable established by the Labour government some years ago, giving Jews more time for prayers than formerly, and allowing them to use an additional part of the site.

Moslem spokesmen complained that Jewish residents of the Kiryat Arba suburb of the Arab town of Hebron, where many members and supporters of the ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim (Faith Bloc) live, attended prayers at the mosque while armed and escorted by guard dogs.

The mayors and Moslem religious leaders dispersed after prayers in the Halbul mosque, but visitors to the area reported considerable tension throughout the region.

A new para-military village was established in the Jordan Valley rift today by members of the Nahal (Fighting and Farming Youth) wing of the Israeli army.

Military sources said the village of Na'amah north of Jericho in the below-sea-level Jordan rift was the first of three new Nahal villages to be established under a government decision a month ago.

The convoy told reporters later: "President Sarkis called in the U.S. Ambassador in Beirut, John Gunther Dean, for an hour's discussion on the situation in the south." After today, Lebanese President Elias Sarkis called in the U.S. Ambassador in Beirut, John Gunther Dean, for an hour's discussion on the situation in the south.

The convoy told reporters later:

"President Sarkis conveyed to me the Lebanese government's stand which I, in turn, will pass on to my government, and I can say we denounce violence everywhere.

Especially in Southern Lebanon."

The Lebanese government has been drawing up plans, in coordination with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to deploy regular troops in the southern region bordering Israel and restore normal life to the area.

Sadat: Sinai oil does not hinder ME peace treaty

CAIRO, Feb. 2 (R)—President Anwar Sadat said today that the Sinai oil is not a problem hindering a peace treaty with Israel, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

"Israel has offered to pay the international prices for the Sinai oil and we have accepted," MENA quoted Mr. Sadat as saying.

The oil concerned is in the part of the Sinai Peninsula which Israel would hand back to Egypt under the proposed treaty.

Mr. Sadat said Egypt would wait to hear from President Carter on the next step for reviving the stalled peace talks.

Mr. Sadat, who was inspecting new houses under construction at his Nile Delta village of Mit Abu Kom told reporters that President Carter is currently busy with Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping "but I hope to hear from him soon."

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (R)—Some 1,600 Palestinian commandos were arrested on occupied Arab land in 1978, 300 more than during the previous year, military sources said yesterday. The sources said about 10 per cent of commandos imprisoned in Israel returned to anti-Israel activities after their release. The Military Governor of the Occupied West Bank said Palestinians in the territory he controls had adopted a more extreme line recently.

"Soon after the Camp David agreements were signed there were several West Bank notables who came out in favour of self-rule in the area. But shortly afterwards, those moderate voices were silenced, sometimes under threat of murder by extremists," he said.

BONN, Feb. 2 (R)—West Germany and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement today protecting German investments in the Arab country. A statement by the Bonn Foreign Ministry said the agreement covered only private investment which was guaranteed by the West German government. The accord was signed by Economics Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff and the Saudi Finance and Economics Minister, Mohammed Ali Abel Khalil. In an accompanying exchange of letters, Saudi Arabia also pledged protection for investments in which the state-backed German Development Association has a share.

EL AVIV, Feb. 2 (R)—The Israeli Army has named Maj.-Gen. Danny Matt its next Military Coordinator of Activities in Occupied Arab Land, replacing Gen. Avraham Orly. Brigadier-General Ephraim Sagiv will be appointed Chief of Military Intelligence, taking over from Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Gazit. The new intelligence chief will be promoted to the rank of major general. The new appointments take effect today.

World News Roundup

Turkish editor's killing condemned

ISTANBUL, Feb. 2 (R)—The bullets which killed one of Turkey's foremost journalists were intended for Turkish democracy and constitutional order, Premier Bulent Ecevit said today as the nation reacted strongly to the latest political murder. Abdi Ipekci, Editor-in-Chief of the influential independent daily Milliyet, was shot in his car as he drove home from work yesterday. He died in hospital. Turkey's major newspapers appeared with all-black mastheads to mark his death, with leaders of all political parties issuing statements condemning the murder.

Britain ends tests on Asian women

LONDON, Feb. 2 (R)—Britain today ended an end to virginity checks on Asian women coming here to be married. The Home Office admitted that an Indian woman had been medically tested at Heathrow Airport last week to see if she had ever borne a child. The tests are designed to help immigration officials check whether claims of intended marriage to British residents are genuine. The Home Office said the woman, aged 35, had been examined because an immigration officer suspected she might already have been married. It said the test showed she had never had a child.

Albanian 'King' ordered out of Spain

MADRID, Feb. 2 (R)—The self-proclaimed King of Albania has left Spain on the advice of authorities who threatened to confiscate an arsenal of weapons found in his Madrid residence, Spanish officials reported today. They said that 39-year-old King Leka the First, who has lived in Spain since 1962, flew to Gabon on Wednesday with his Australian-born wife and a group of bodyguards and aides. Leka, who is 2.06 metres (six feet nine inches) tall, proclaimed himself King when his father, King Zog, died in exile in 1961.

Hearst, husband-to-be go into hiding

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 2 (R)—Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst and the policeman she will marry, Bernard Shaw, holidayed at a secret resort today away from the crowds and eccentricities she fears might try to harm her. The 24-year-old Miss Hearst was released from prison yesterday after serving 22 months of a seven-year sentence for bank robbery. She told reporters she probably would have to go into hiding. She received threats while in prison from people who were angered because she turned in court against members of the so-called Symbionese Liberation Army who kidnapped her five years ago.

As Iranians await Khomeini's orders

Armed conflict feared legal clash expected

TEHRAN, Feb. 2 (R)—Armed conflict could erupt in Iran unless Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini reach agreement on a political solution within two or three days, highly-placed government sources said today.

The sources said ministers of the embattled civilian government detected the spectre of civil war if there is no speedy settlement with the 78-year-old Moslem leader who wants to set up an Islamic republic in place of the absent Shah.

Some ministers were already prepared to resign in favour of Khomeini nominees if their sacrifice would save Iran from a bloodbath, the sources said.

After returning to a triumphal welcome by millions of devotees yesterday, the Ayatollah told Dr. Bakhtiar's government it should step down or face arrest.

Dr. Bakhtiar, appointed by the



Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping (center) viewing a motor as it rolls down the assembly line at a Ford plant at Hapeville, Ga. On Friday, Mr. Deng got a taste of the Old West as he visited Houston, Tex., where he saw some of America's most advanced space technology and visited a manufacturer of oil drilling equipment. Later tonight he was scheduled to attend a rodeo and eat barbecue meat at a ranch outside Houston. (AP wirephoto)

Callaghan takes tough line against trade unionists

LONDON, Feb. 2 (R)—Britain's Labour government today took a tougher line against the tactics of trade union extremists pressing for huge pay rises.

Ministers and members of the Labour party normally an ally of the unions hit out at wildcat pic-

kets blocking hospitals, stopping hauliers and closing down schools.

After denouncing what he called "free collective vandalism" in parliament yesterday, Prime Minister James Callaghan called in four union leaders to tell them

the way in which strikes have been conducted was shocking the nation and ruining his re-election hopes.

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection Roy Hattersley followed it up when, in a radio interview today, he said it was time unions stood up against members who are giving them a bad name.

He denounced the behaviour of some strikers as thoroughly inde-

ferable.

Mr. Hattersley also dismissed as "fantasy" any idea that the government would authorise higher pay offers to 1.5 million low wage earners pressing for increases ranging up to 40 per cent.

Conservative opposition leader Margaret Thatcher called for a campaign against the "few thousand wreckers" in the union movement.

The president of the Yugoslav leader, who arrived here yesterday, and the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmar are due to begin tomorrow on a wide-range of bilateral, Arab and non-aligned issues.

The president, on the first stop of a two-week trip which will also take him to Iraq, Syria and Jordan, visited Kuwait Towers, a tourist landmark being constructed by a Yugoslav firm, which is expected to be completed within two months.

Enjoying the warmth of Kuwait, President Tito looked fit as he drove through the capital's streets with Finance Minister Abdel-Rahman Al Atiqi, head of the mission of honour assigned to accompany him during his stay.

President Tito and the Emir are expected to discuss the Middle

East situation including latest developments of Egyptian-Israel peace moves.

Kuwait, like the three other states he will visit, is opposed to last September's Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel.

The political turmoil in Iran is also expected to be discussed by the two heads of state, informed sources said.

President Tito is also expected to seek an expansion of Yugoslav-Kuwaiti economic cooperation as well as Kuwaiti loans and other facilities to help offset his country's foreign trade deficit, the sources said.

Kuwaiti newspapers today paid tribute to President Tito and said his visit would consolidate bilateral relations and the non-aligned movement.

The daily Al Qabas said the meeting between the Emir and Pres-

ident Tito would provide a good opportunity to discuss ways to safeguard the non-aligned movement.

Shah before he flew abroad 17 days ago into possible exile, has adamantly refused to resign. But he said today he would accept supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini in a government if they were people of international calibre.

Dr. Bakhtiar said that if the Ayatollah unilaterally announced a provisional government for his planned Islamic republic he would ignore it as far as possible.

He said: "Mr. Khomeini is now here and he can help us on certain problems...we can accept his judgment on questions of religion or social affairs but when he wants to be foreign minister--really..."

He added that he had made a number of proposals but did not say what kind of response he had received.

The Prime Minister said there was no question of a military coup in Iran for the time being.

The army does not command in Iran," Dr. Bakhtiar said. "It must remain at the service of government policy and in the current situation, I exclude any coup d'état by the army".

But he warned that petrol bomb attacks on military barracks and tanks would be answered with bullets.

A source close to the cabinet said it was essential that a political solution to the crisis be found "on a juridical basis acceptable to the government."

But there was no sign of any softening of the Ayatollah's flat refusal to recognise Dr. Bakhtiar and his government.

In an uncompromising revolutionary speech yesterday after his tumultuous welcome home from 15 years in exile, Mr. Khomeini stopped short of announcing a provisional government.

But aides said he may do so tomorrow—when he is expected to hold a press conference—or on Sunday.

The result would be a formal constitutional clash, which moderate Iranians fear could be resolved only by street fighting between the Ayatollah's millions of supporters and the pro-Shah armed forces backing Dr. Bakhtiar.

Ayatollah Khomeini meanwhile received more than 100,000 people who thronged the Islamic school in central Tehran which is his political base.

Turbaned mullahs (Moslem clerics) went to see him in the early morning, followed by tens of thousands of men and then throngs of women, all wearing enveloping black chadors (cloaks).

The Ayatollah made no political statements. But he said he would soon go to the holy city of Qom, which he is expected to make his long-term headquarters.

Among those briefly received by the Ayatollah was the leader of the opposition National Front Party, Dr. Karim Sanjabi, a respected nationalist politician who may play a role in the planned Islamic republic.

But the two men did not discuss

An adoring crowd lifts a soldier towards the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Friday, as the religious leader appears on the balcony of his Tehran temporary headquarters.

More than 100,000 greeted the Ayatollah on his second day in Iran after an exile of 15 years. (A wirephoto)

Road Transport Union FIR announced today that Turkey has given permission for several European truck drivers stranded for weeks in Iran to return across the frontier.

About 1,000 European truck drivers—from Austria, Britain, Bulgaria, France, West Germany, Hungary and Switzerland—have been stuck at Bazargan in Iran since December because of a political strike by Iranian customs men.

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Wrong Church, wrong pew

WHEN SENATOR Frank Church acceded recently to the chairmanship of the important U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it was a clear setback for Arab interests in Washington. A long-time captive of Zionist influence on Congress, and an ambitious Democratic Party presidential aspirant, Senator Church suddenly found himself occupying a useful new platform from which to expound his distorted view of American Middle East policy.

Now, in a speech to a Jewish audience in Florida, Mr. Church has outdone himself with a stinging attack on Saudi Arabia, calling that country a "detiment to peace" and warning the Saudis that their "special relationship" with the United States "cannot be a one-way street."

The timing of the speech is nothing if not curious, coming just as the Saudis themselves are re-assessing their relationship with the United States in the light of what they see as the growing un dependability of America as an ally, as an economic partner, and as a guarantor against sudden changes in the strategic balance in the Gulf. If the Saudis are wavering, Mr. Church seems determined to give them the push.

The Saudi rulers might agree with Senator Church that their relationship with the U.S. cannot be a "one-way street"; from their point of view, indeed, it is perhaps time to reverse direction from this cul-de-sac.

Financially, the Saudis have kept a substantial proportion of their oil surpluses in dollars, and have stoutly defended and helped to prop up that currency, when all about them had long since lost faith in American fiscal policy. Because of the dollar's loss of value since 1973, they have watched their oil earnings decline alarmingly in value; where they could have prevailed on their OPEC partners to raise crude oil prices to compensate for these losses, they have instead engineered moderate price rises which have not kept pace with inflation.

As an added vote of confidence in the American system, they have spent billions on importing U.S. technology (often when the comparable European or Japanese technology was not only cheaper but more suitable), and have invested millions more in U.S. industry and real estate (for which they have been branded as greedy interlopers trying to "buy up America"). In recent weeks, they have reluctantly increased their oil production to make up for the reduced flow of oil to America from Iran. And, of course, they continue to wait patiently for the U.S. to adopt a sensible energy policy, while pressing ahead themselves with pioneering research into solar energy.

Politically, for wanting to share responsibility with the U.S. in defending the oilfields of the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula against subversion, they have seen their offer to buy advanced American jet fighters subjected to insulting scrutiny by an ill-informed Congress and a Zionist-influenced press and public ("only 15 minutes supersonic flying time from Tabuk to Tel Aviv"). And recently they have watched with alarm as the U.S. has waffled and wavered in Iran, only to be told now by Senator Church that a similar fate might be in store for Saudi Arabia.

We shall save for another day any comment on Mr. Church's insistence that Saudi Arabia is hindering the Camp David peace process. We don't expect he knows much about Jerusalem, or what's happening on the West Bank, or about the extent to which Egypt's day-to-day survival (and, incidentally, that of many other countries, particularly in Africa) depends on Saudi generosity. Such information is probably not contained in the B'nai B'rith information kit from which he derives the inspiration for his public speeches.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'J Friday stresses the importance of Prime Minister Mudar Badran's meeting with officials and heads of municipal councils of the Zarqa District on Thursday. The visit, it says, reflects the government's readiness to always suggest and find out solutions for all problems facing the people of the country through an imaginative comprehension of these problems and scientific study for their solution.

Al Ra'i notes that the human influx to Jordan caused by Zionist aggression during the wars of 1948 and 1967 has doubled responsibilities of the government to provide adequate public services for this unnatural population growth which repeated itself twice in less than 30 years.

Despite Jordan's limited natural resources, measures taken by the government were able to "absorb" a large number of problems and provide the best possible services in the fields of education, health, road building and other public utilities, the newspaper says.

AL DUSTOUR says the tumultuous welcome accorded to Ayatollah Khomeini's return to Tehran on Thursday is almost unprecedented in the annals of history. It may be compared with the return of Napoleon from his exile in Elba Island or the return of Julius Caesar from his victorious conquests.

In the case of Muslims reflecting on their past heroic deeds, Khomeini's comeback may be similar in intent and content to the Prophet Mohammad's conquest of Mecca after so many years of exile in the Medina or the conquest of Jerusalem by Saladin after many decades of the Crusaders' domination.

The big world powers which now stand bewildered at the present monumental revolutionary phenomenon in Iran, must take into account that Islam is a living, dynamic and growing force that must be recognised as such and dealt with from the position of respect and understanding.

Civil Defence Dept. operates fire brigade, provides emergency ambulance service

By Alan Martiny

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—One characteristic of disasters is that they usually strike at the most unlikely time, when you least expect them. And they usually happen so quickly and forcefully that if one is not well prepared, lives and property are unnecessarily lost. So it is comforting to know that there are people around who are trained, equipped and prepared to help in such events.

Jordan groups its disaster relief into the Civil Defence Department, comprised of the fire brigade, civil defence, rescue and ambulance services. Regular civil defence units are spread throughout the country, ready to handle any kind of emergency at a moment's notice. The department has a unit in each subgovernorate responsible for the surrounding area.

"Our system is based on joint support," Col. Mohammad Khasawneh, Assistant Director General of the Civil Defence Department told the Jordan Times. "If a village needs help they can get it from another unit nearby or from Amman."

Salt, for example, can deal with normal emergency cases. But if something major happens which they are unable to handle they can get support from Jerash, Amman or Shunah. "One day we sent fire tenders to Aqaba from Amman, Madaba and Karak because a ship caught fire in the harbour," Col. Khasawneh said. "By this strategy we are able to handle every situation. And we thank God we have never failed."

So the department is usually able to handle most situations unaided. But for larger emergencies the department involves its volunteer forces. And in grave emergencies or situations requiring widespread relief it has contingency plans for training and mobilising the local population.

"We have a very good group of volunteers," he said. "They are completely volunteers too, receiving no pay. Some are doctors, teachers, engineers, students and workers." Two years ago when the cholera epidemic hit Jordan, most of the city cleaning was handled by the volunteers.

The voluntary sector is organised into 14 regions in Amman.



Fire fighters of the Civil Defence Department must be prepared to answer alerts from as far away as Aqaba.

Each region has a station with four groups: one for fire fighting, one for first aid, one for rescue and one for "civil guidance"—training and mobilising the civilian population.

"Daily we receive reports of incidents handled by our voluntary units," Mr. Khasawneh said. "When we need them they are on 24-hour notice and can be used anywhere in the country."

Some individuals in the voluntary units with specialised abilities have also made their talents available for public use. A couple of doctors have provided free clinics and some women have opened a school for illiterate women in their region.

In Amman the Civil Defence Department has four stations: headquarters, located opposite the General Intelligence Building, the municipal fire brigade in the downtown area, a unit in Sweileh for the western part of Amman and a unit at the airport for the eastern part of the city.

"We're not quite satisfied with this though," he said. "We're hoping to open more this year."

The department tries to get the most advanced equipment. It has modern fire tenders, snorkels, hydraulic ladders and other standard gear. "In three months we

are going to buy a 40 metre turnable ladder, with another two in about a year," which will be necessary as the height of Amman's buildings increases.

Most of these were, of course, minor. But some were not. The biggest fire last year was at the Fine paper factory containing thousands of rolls of thin paper. The area unit wasn't well organised and surrounding stores blocked the firemen from the blaze. It took a long time to put the fire out, Mr. Khasawneh said.

"The worst fires are not necessarily the largest in size," he explained. "The worst ones are the ones which might spread. Next to the Fine factory was a battery factory with thousands of old tyres. Also nearby was an oxygen manufacturer. If the fire had carried it could have been a real disaster."

Another serious though small fire took place last year at the Sukhian Pharmacy. Next door was a petrol station near a hospital and in one section of the pharmacy were poisons. If the poisons had caught fire it could have been a disaster involving all of Jordan's hotels!



One of Amman's fire tenders (left) with roving communications (right).

sein, its colonel explained.

"We have to be very careful because small things can easily lead to major disasters," he said.

One encouraging trend is that Jordanians are buying more safety equipment. In 1973, private citizens in the country spent JD 13,549 to buy 18,456 kilos of fire fighting agents. In 1977 this increased to JD 188,531 for 194,534 kilos. "This shows that people are becoming more safety conscious," he noted.

The use of the ambulance service, another one of the department's responsibilities, has also increased over the last four years by about 12 per cent annually.

The government is now planning to set up a special ambulance service, utilizing the new microwave emergency telephone system along the highways. By pressing a button on the phone or talking to the operator, a signal indicating the location of the accident would be relayed to the emergency ambulance.

"In my experience, civil defence is never enough," Col. Khasawneh said. "When a major disaster comes you need many organisations, people and materials."

One of the biggest problems, he said, is that few countries can afford to maintain a large civil defence organisation. No country, not even the richest, can afford such a big effort. The manpower and material costs would be too high," he added.

Worldwide emphasis was on civil defence following World War II as a result of the development of devastating weapons such as nuclear and fast aircraft, suddenly involved the civilian population in war. Civil defence was organised as a means of protecting civilians from the effects of war but expanded to include protection from all forms of disaster.

As major disasters are beyond the ability of one nation to handle, a cooperative initiative under United Nations auspices was created called the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO). The ICDO, in Geneva, enlists most nations as members.

Jordan joined the organisation at the beginning of last year. Khasawneh said, "We are the organisation's eighth member in Tunisia and for quite helpful. Now we co-operate and have the co-operation of nations in cases of emergency."

Over the last few years, Jordan has been quite lucky in that only a few major disasters from wars in the area have been only a few localised catastrophes, such as floods which destroyed two-thirds of Ma'an years ago. The last major quake was in the late 1960s.

Nevertheless, it is wise to remember the saying: "He who is best prepared is the worst!"

WHAT'S GOING ON

Painting Exhibit

The British Council presents an exhibition of watercolours and oil paintings by Clara Metzger. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and during regular hours in the afternoon.

French Film.

The French Cultural Centre presents a film by Robert Bresson entitled "Au hazard Balthazar", at 7:30 p.m. French version with Arabic subtitles.

Book Exhibit

An exhibition of British medical journals is on display in the Reading Room of the British Council library. Open during regular library hours.

Art Exhibit

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Ann Wiegand is on display at the American Centre. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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(Week of Feb. 3-9)
EXHIBITS

TUESDAY, Feb. 3: An exhibit of black and white photos depicting the life and works of composer Maurice Ravel goes on view from Feb. 10 at the French Cultural Centre.

TUESDAY, Feb. 3: Oil paintings by Suweida artist Ziad Daloul will be featured in a one-man show at Al Shab' Gallery through Feb. 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; 4:30 - 8 p.m.

MONDAY, Feb. 5: A photo exhibit depicting Soviet Georgia goes on view for one week at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

CONCERTS

SATURDAY, Feb. 3: "An Antiqua de Paris" will be featured at 8:30 p.m. at Al Kabbani Theatre.

SATURDAY, Feb. 4: Hamsa Al-Wadi, a student at the Moscow Conservatory of Music, will perform compositions of Mozart, Beethoven, and Chopin on the piano at 8:30 p.m. at Al Hamra Theatre.

TUESDAY, Feb. 8: Russian pianist Natalia Riasanova will perform at 8 p.m. at the Music Saloon of the Soviet Cultural Centre. The programme includes: Beethoven's Sonata 31, n. 3; Chopin's nocturne, opus 25, n. 2, Etude, opus 25, n. 12, Ballade, n. 2; and Rumanian Impressionism by Brahms, Liszt and Rachmaninov.

LECTURES

UNDAY, Feb. 4: "Albanian Culture in Kosova (Yugoslavia)" will be the topic of Prof. Abdulatif Arnaout at 6 p.m. at the Arab-Balkan Civilisation (ICD) in Geneva, and "Jordan from the beginning" will be presented at 6 p.m. at the Arab Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

EDNESDAY, Feb. 7: "Football, Queen of Sports" will be the topic of a discussion with players from the German Democratic Republic Army Sports Team at 6 p.m. at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in German and Arabic).

THURSDAY, Feb. 8: "Thomas Hardy: the Poetry of Remembrance" is the title of a talk to be delivered by Dr. Saleh al-Hamad of Damascus University English Department at 7:30 p.m. at the British Cultural Centre.

VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMMES

EDNESDAY, Feb. 7: "Arsene Lupin: L'homme au chapeau noir" will be presented at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

FRIDAY, Feb. 9: "Claude Bolling / Jazz" is scheduled for 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

ENTERTAINMENT

Norwegian songstress Billie Wells is appearing nightly at the rooftop supper club of the Meridien Hotel through Feb. 11. humour has it that the lipshows of the Meridien will be broadcast once a night weekly over Damascus TV. In the nearby rooftop bar, Aldo and Jacqueline give top-notch performances in any language upon request.

FAT-POURRI

An admirable project for a fat-pourri has been started by a handful of Damascus artists. December, Syria lost its greatest painter, Khalil Khayat, of Aleppo. During the first week of January, General Director of the Fine Arts, died of a heart attack in a widow and children, a group of who were close to both and launched an art sale for the survivors.

Auction is taking place in Restaurant where the Boucharati, Boucharati, 30 paintings and drawings are offered daily. A portion of the proceeds is donated by some who have agreed to pay to the families of the deceased.

Artists who are caravans, M. Boucharati, Sharaf, Director of Fine Arts, and artists Hussein Ziad Daloul, Khalil Khayat, and Ghassan Ghazal, public invited to buy through the gallery. Selections

from the above artists who have done other works, including Nizar Ismail, Ali Nasr, Aslam, Rashed, Farhat, Hussein Hamzeh, Daker, Abdulkader, Abdu, Manan, and others. These

Vietnamese-born Le-thu Purifoy exudes. The diminutive dynamo produced more than 20 oriental courses topped by a roost sucking pig (purchased in Lebanon). The Purifoy apartment was decorated with strings of coloured lights, tinsel and traditional Vietnamese New Year decorations.

The host is in Damascus with U.S.A.L.D. and so it was no surprise to see numerous A.I.D. representatives including Don and Helen Yeman and Ann and Dr. Nassib Hamedan chatting with William C. LaBaugh, vice president of Daniel Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall of New York City. Mr. LaBaugh recently arrived in Syria as a consultant for the proposed Damascus-Dera' Highway.

We had Islamic New Year, Armenian, Greek and celebrations marking the new year. It was no surprise that Vietnamese New Year was celebrated with an impressive buffet festivity for 100 of Lenoy and Le-thu in their West Mall.

such a petite lady, it's how much energy and



The favorite of crowds attending the Iraqi art exhibition in the Damascus National Museum was this monumental four-part painting by Kadem depicting a threatening dragon (Israel?) looming over a mound of human

corpses; in the foreground is a dead Arab with a kafieh-wearing dove perched on his outstretched fingers (photo by Haytham Kawakibi).

art spanning 5,000 years at the Meridien Hotel Tuesday evening.

The seven models were startlingly beautiful-and readily identifiable-the staging, fashions, fabrics, music and backdrops truly made it a thousand and one nights as the mannequins glided across the runway to the rhythms of throbbing bedouin drums.

Costumes copied after artifactual remains from Sumer of 3500 B.C. opened the show; these were followed by a designer's version of Akkadian costumes, then by a sequence dedicated to the Babylonian kingdom of 1750 B.C. in which models appeared in tiered sequinned gowns and cobra turbans. The Assyrian period was represented by models carrying flaming torches, two of them wore feathered wings noted in Assyrian friezes.

If you have items for the Damas-Scene column, please send them 10 days in advance to Pat McDonnell, P.O.B. 5601, Damascus, Syria.



Norwegian songstress Billie Wells is appearing nightly in the rooftop supper club of the Meridien Hotel. Her repertoire is chiefly pop songs sung in a number of languages.

THEATRE

SUNDAY, Feb. 4: The National Theatre of Syria will open a three-week run of Mamduh Adwan's adaptation of "Man of La Mancha" starring Zinat Koutsia as Don Quixote. Mahmoud Hadour is director of the production presented nightly except Fridays at 8:30 p.m. at Al Hamra Theatre. Others in the cast are Abdulatif Fathy, Farah Dipsey, Filda Samour, Addelsalam Altaib and Sayam Haddad (in Arabic).

THURSDAY, Feb. 8, and FRIDAY, Feb. 9: The Damascus Theatre Group will stage "Hassan" by James Elvyn Flecker at 8 p.m., both nights at Damascus Community School. Bob Straker-Cook is director.

FILMS

SATURDAY, Feb. 3, and MONDAY, Feb. 5: "Amore" directed by Henry Chapier starring Sonia Petrova, Daniel Quenau and Julian Negulesco, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

SUNDAY, Feb. 4: "Men Without Beards" is the title of a film to be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in German, Arabic sub-titles).

MONDAY, Feb. 5: "Citadel on Wheels" will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

THURSDAY, Feb. 8: "Les Etoiles de Midi," directed by Marcel Ichac starring Lionel Terray and Roger Blin, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

FRIDAY, Feb. 9: "The Valley", Part II will be shown at 6 p.m. at the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

Jordanian-Dutch archaeological digs to begin in Jordan Valley

AMMAN, Feb. 2 (JNA)--The Department of Antiquities in cooperation with the Palestine archaeological institute at Leyden University in Holland will start archaeological digs near Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley on Saturday. The aim of the new excavations, expected to last two months, is to unearth further layers of living quarters that date back to a period between the seventh and fifth centuries B.C. which is known as the late iron age. Director of the Department of Antiquities Adnan Al Hadidi said yesterday "The excavators hope to get more information about an ancient wall on which Aramaic writings had been found and also to unearth the earliest antiquities lying in the area," Dr. Al Hadidi said. He added that Aramaic writings found at the site are now on display at the Jordanian Archaeological Museum in Amman. University students of archaeology from Jordan and Holland are taking part in the excavations.

TODAY'S WEATHER

The weather will be partly cloudy with a slight chance of scattered rain. Winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba Gulf there will be dusty conditions, northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Temperatures

	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	5	14
Aqaba	10	20
Jordan Valley	11	21
Deserts	4	15

Coming & Going

U. of J. delegation to attend Arab language meeting

AMMAN, Feb. 2 (JNA)--The University of Jordan will take part in an Arab experts meeting which is to be held in Damascus Saturday to debate and approve the plan for a unified Arab dictionary for administrative idioms. The two-week meeting, sponsored by the Arab organisation for administrative science will be attended by Arab administrative experts and representatives from the Arabic language academies in Amman, Damascus, Cairo and Baghdad. The university will be represented by Assistant Dean of the Economy and Commerce Faculty Dr. Na'im Dahmash.

Saudi communications official ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN, Feb. 2 (JNA)--Under-secretary of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Communications Dr. Nasser Al Salloom left Amman yesterday at the end of his three-day visit to Jordan. He held talks with the Minister of Transport Ali Suheim and Minister of Public Works Sa'id Bino in cooperation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia in the field of communication and transportation.

Health Ministry official off to the U.S.

AMMAN, Feb. 2 (JNA)--Head of the mother and child section at the Ministry of Health Dr. Mohammad Ali Al Hababi left here today for the United States to attend an advanced course on family health and safe child birth. The course to be held at John Hopkins University in Baltimore aims at developing maternity and baby care through exchange of data and expertise among specialists throughout the world. The four-week course will be attended by representatives from more than 40 countries.

Tourism director to leave for meeting in Madrid

AMMAN, Feb. 2 (JNA)--Director General of Tourism Michael Hamarneh will

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Royal decree approves price fixing of car spare parts

AMMAN, Feb. 2 (JNA)--A royal decree was issued yesterday approving the pension fund and social security regulation for veterinary doctors. The fund is aimed at paying pension salaries to doctors or their families and providing social security for doctors or their families in cases of invalidism or death.

Another royal decree was issued endorsing the Fixing of prices of car spare parts and other expenses.

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By Carol Kennedy

More than ever, the world's fine arts buyers are beating a path to London where the capital's best known auction houses chalk up new records year by year in their volume of sales. At the end of the 1977-1978 season Christies recorded an increase of 34 per cent on the previous year's sales. Sotheby showed a rise of 31 per cent and Phillips, the third ranking saleroom, recorded a 28 per cent improvement.

All three firms attributed much of the increase in business to the growing importance of overseas

buyers, both in London and in its salerooms in other countries. In 1978 Christies added an office in Vienna to its 14 branches worldwide.

London has become the leading art marketplace in the last 20 years, partly because of the basic richness of the British heritage in art and antiques, and partly because of a favourable business climate. Until comparatively recently there was no saleroom commission charged, and buyers from overseas are not charged value added tax on purchases.

There also is an immense amount of expertise in all fields of

art and antiques, and, if advice is needed on some special aspect of Austrian baroque or a rare type of netsuke, it may well be available from scholars in London, without recourse to Vienna or Tokyo.

A striking development of the last 10 to 12 years in the British art market, and one that perhaps has most directly influenced the growth of business for overseas buyers, has been the boom in "national heritage" buying. This has brought a constant stream of dealers from mainland Europe, Japan, the Middle East and North America to London to buy Dutch marquetry, Austrian Bieder-

meier, samurai swords, French ormolu, Meissen porcelain, Persian rugs, early colonial furniture and all types of art treasures brought to Britain in earlier centuries by travellers and discerning connoisseurs.

London's reputation in the international art world is such that many outstanding pictures from abroad are taken there to be sold. In Christies' big Old Master sale in July, which netted £3 million, 160 of the 220 works came from other countries. Overall, more than a third of everything that Christies sells is submitted from outside Britain.

Domestic demand also has boomed since the 1960s through the growth of investment buying as a hedge against inflation, and the spread of informed interest in antiques. The late 1960s saw a series of record breaking sales, at one of which a Velasquez portrait broke the hitherto undreamed of £2 million barrier, and for the first time television cameras went into Sotheby's and Christies' salerooms to convey the excitement to viewers more familiar with the suspense of a world boxing championship.

As the collecting mania spread it seemed that very few items were unworthy of some collector's attention somewhere and this was reflected in the "Big Two" opening branches devoted to mementoes of the Victorian, Edwardian and even later periods. The definition of an antique departed from its previous strict frontier of 1830, and Art Deco objects of a century later were soon soaring in price.

Sotheby even puts 1950s jukeboxes, Hornby toy trains, old typewriters and pre-war cigarette cards into its collector's sales, and the buying field spread to "collector's cars", old costumes, photographs, lead soldiers and a host of other things which a few years earlier could have been bought for the proverbial song. Christies' subsidiary branch dealing in these "new antiques" has quadrupled its turnover in four years.

The art-as-investment boom reached a peak in the early 1970s as investors sought a more stable home for their money than the plunging stock market. Many dealers disapproved strongly of the trend, despite the extra busi-



A collection of arms presented to Napoleon in 1797 being sold at Christie's in London

ness it generated, because of the artificiality of price values it caused and because often it was followed by a collapse when buyers tried to realise their investments too soon.

This happened notably in the case of English Georgian silver in 1969, and a few years later the prominent British financier who had bought heavily into 19th century Dutch landscapes lost a considerable sum when financial problems forced him to sell too soon, as did a property developer who had bought second rank Impressionists at the top of the market.

Art historian Gerald Reitlinger denounced the trend as "the corruption of what is left of civilised life". He also made the interesting observation that many of the apparently record prices of the late 1960s and early 1970s were

not startling when set against the falling value of money since World War I.

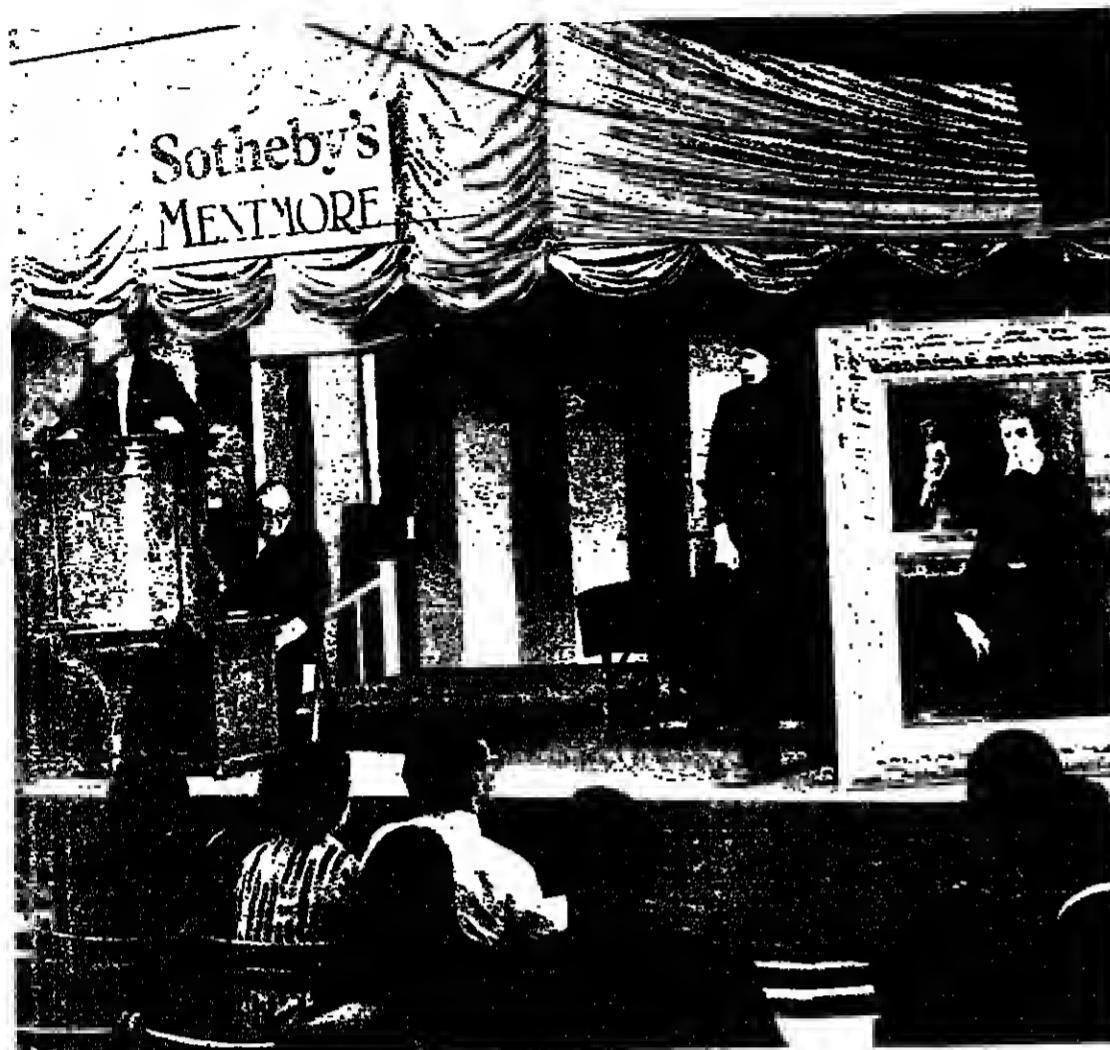
Reitlinger placed the real peak of the art market around 1912 and noted that even prices paid for Rembrandt paintings had only just kept pace with inflation, compared with what was being paid in the depressed 1930s.

Nevertheless, prices continued to rise strikingly—if somewhat more steadily—after the flurry of the investment boom. Some particularly notable increases have been in Oriental rugs (London has been the centre for this trade since 1900 and almost all the rugs that pass through its warehouses are re-exported to the Middle East and Europe, prices in some cases rising four or fivefold in three years); what dealers call "the small, portable investment" (gold coins, fine watches, loose

diamonds, rare stamps, Fabergé boxes—anything that can be easily transported and finds a ready market).

Interest in Old Master paintings, especially German and Flemish; in early books, manuscripts (the Austria Library paid £120,000 a year at Christie's for Hofmannsthal's "Der Rosenkrieg" and "Arabell"); fine Old Master drawings, medals, and 19th century porcelain, paintings, etc., Renaissance and sculptures.

Phillips, which compiles a table of items of appreciation in Austrian glass, Austrian porcelain, especially Hoffmann and Moser,



An auctioneer at Sotheby's receives bids for one of the Old Master paintings from the Rothschild Collection.

Computerised patient analysis

A senior technician at Britain's National Physical Laboratory runs tests on a computerised interviewing system that will screen patients for symptoms while a doctor is engaged on more pressing work elsewhere. "Mickie" (Medical Interviewing by Computer) is part of the microprocessor revolution. It is a desk top computer with a "brain" made up of silicon chips (microprocessor circuits) each no bigger than a thumb-nail and each equivalent to around 10,000 old fashioned transistors. These chips process answers to a series of questions shown on a visual display unit. "Mic-

kie" is designed to take the repetitive screening of patients out of the doctor's hands by using a simply 'yes', 'no' or 'don't know' interview technique. One question at a time is presented to a patient on a visual display screen. The patient responds by pressing buttons marked 'yes', 'no' or 'don't know'. In certain instances a fourth button for a 'don't understand' response is included. When a patient presses a button two things happen. First the computer examines the response to see if it gives a specific answer; if it does so, the item is included in a print-out summary. The computer then picks up and displays the next question in logical sequence dependent on the previous answer. When the patient has finished the interview the computer prints out a summary for analysis by the doctor. A prototype 'Mickie' is currently in use at the West Middlesex Hospital, where patients are finding 'Dr. Computer' readily acceptable. There appears to be no social or intellectual barriers and patients can take their time in answering. Further models have been ordered by Britain's Department of Health and Social Security for evaluation. (COI)



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(Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Put in economy measures and build up your reserves. Any financial risks you're taking for trouble.

(Apr. 20 to May 18) You may think you can go in all directions today, but this is not the case. Take steps to improve your health.

(May 19 to June 21) Study your surroundings for the day and make plans for improvement. Later in favorite hobby with congenials.

IN CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Not a good social side of life, although you're rarin' to go. There could be trouble instead.

(July 22 to Aug. 21) Take no risks with your good fortune. Every regulation that concerns you is the way to be free of trouble today.

(Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Listening to experts in affairs can prove beneficial for you in the future. Pay attention to the handling of money now.

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Find the right way to handle a matter that will give you renewed respect to gain your finest aims.

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A civic matter is not to me but there is little you can do about it, so forget it to new opportunities.

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Attend to duties it you have neglected to do in the past. Follow regulation that applies to you.

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Being encouraging helpful with others now helps them and yourself. thin your budget and all is fine.

(Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) The situation at home hectic, but if you keep your poise, all will soon be in. Make improvements to property.

(Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have to exercise much caution if you are to avoid potential danger today ght. Good day for reading.

OPEN BRIDGE

LES H. GOREN
OMAR SHARIF

By Chicago Tribune

vulnerability also precluded East from looking for a possible minor-suit sacrifice.

West led his singleton heart, and East won the ace. The automatic defense is to return a heart, giving partner a ruff. After that, however, the defenders will be able to get the ace of clubs—if they take it at once—but no more. Declarer will eventually be able to discard clubs on dummy's hearts after drawing trumps.

Before leading to the second trick, East gave the hand careful thought. It was reasonable to assume that declarer had at least one of the minor-suit aces; if he held the ace of clubs, the defenders were helpless since the heart suit was already set up for discards. However, if declarer held the ace of diamonds and West the ace of clubs, the contract could be defeated providing declarer held at least two clubs.

Once he had worked this out, East's defense became obvious. After winning the ace of hearts, he shifted to the queen of clubs.

Declarer had no counter. No matter what he did, the defenders had to come to four tricks. If he covered, West would capture the king with the ace, return a club to his partner's jack and secure a heart ruff for the fourth trick. If he played low, East would shift to a heart to give his partner a ruff, and West would then cash the ace of clubs for the setting trick.

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Space-age probe



Know-how from the German aircraft and space research industry has led to an unusual spin-off: a fine medical instrument such as no other company has yet been able to produce. This is a scalpel probe to facilitate the removal of vessel narrowings in the urinary tract. The industry worked closely with urologists from a local clinic. Apart from developing a remote control device, the main thing was to use a material which was physiologically harmless. First tests have already proved successful. (DaD photo)

By DaD (photo)

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID DAVIS

Despite attacks by Deng U.S.-Soviet summit reportedly still on

ASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (R)—A U.S.-Soviet summit between Presidents Carter and Leonid Brezhnev is certain, despite anti-Soviet attacks by Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping during his talks here, a Soviet diplomatic source said.

"There will be a summit," the sources said last night, but the time and place had not yet been worked out. These would probably depend on progress in solving the few remaining issues blocking a new Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT) treaty.

The initial Soviet assessment was that, generally speaking, President Carter handled the Deng visit "prudently," although the Russians were critical of the timing of the visit just one month after the opening of U.S.-Chinese diplomatic relations.

The Soviet news agency Tass yesterday criticised speeches made by Mr. Deng attacking the Soviet Union, and the sources said criticism also could be expected of the final communiqué on the talks.

The communiqué's use of the word "global," a Chinese code-word for what Peking calls Soviet aggressive intentions, would provoke objections, the source said. This was despite the White House explanation that the term had been used twice before in Sino-American documents and a subsequent slight softening of the relevant paragraph.

In referring to Mr. Deng's speeches criticising the Soviet Union, the sources said: "The sight of Deng attacking the Soviet Union in the National Gallery of Art is not going to help U.S.-Soviet relations."

"It also makes it more difficult for the United States to conduct its foreign policy."

The Chinese leader accused the Soviet Union of seeking global domination and said Moscow was backing Vietnam's "massive armed aggression" against Kampuchea (Cambodia).

The source said the Soviet Union felt that China gained far more than the United States from Mr. Deng's visit.

"The Chinese have managed to

determine the pace of relations with the United States," he said. "They got more out of this visit than you (the United States) asked for."

Tass said the United States should clarify its attitude following Mr. Deng's "incentive statements."

But a senior U.S. official said the clarification had been given this week when President Carter made clear the United States did not share China's view of its communist rival.

The president said at a White House signing ceremony on Wednesday for four U.S.-Chinese cooperation accords that on broad, global problems the United States and China did not always concur.

The word "global" has become diplomatic shorthand for relations with the Soviet Union.

In addition, the joint communiqué issued here said the two sides discussed "those areas in which they have differing perspectives."

Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin was briefed yesterday by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the Carter-Deng talks, the State Department said.

Reliable sources said SALT was also discussed and added: "Things are moving along SALT both here and in Geneva (where the permanent SALT delegations are meeting.)"

China satisfied

China yesterday expressed satisfaction with the results of Vice-Premier Deng's visit to the United States.

"With unity, the United States, Europe, Japan, China and other countries of the Third World can deal with Soviet hegemonism and only then can there be a more peaceful, more secure and more

stable world," the official New China News Agency (NCNA) said in a report from Washington.

When Mr. Deng shook hands with President Carter, "it was a moment that marked a significant change in the world."

The agency said that the first meeting of the two men was quickly crowned with remarkable results satisfactory to both sides, and they found that they shared identical views on many issues.

The subject of their discussions—the present world situation—is far from tranquil and is in fact getting more and more turbulent. So it is not surprising that they devoted most of the time to an appraisal of that situation."

The agency said the military growth of the Soviet Union could not be overlooked. "No part of the world is free from menace, the menace from the north," it said.

"The polar bear (Moscow) wants to enfold the whole globe," the agency said. "It has reached the seas from the Indian Ocean to Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay. Kampuchea has fallen victim to outright armed aggression and the Malacca Strait (between Indonesia and Malaysia) becomes the convergent point of the pinches of the Soviet navy. The factor making for war is growing visibly."

The agency said that it was against this background that Mr. Deng pointed out during his Washington visit that both China and the United States approached the development of their relations from a long-range strategic point of view and that the two countries should have a greater sense of responsibility for the maintenance of world peace and stability.

The Chinese agency said that differences in their social systems did not prevent the two countries from arriving at a general agreement.

From 1951 to 1956 he was Ethiopia's ambassador to the United Nations and negotiated

Saudi Arabia is 'detriment to peace,' claims U.S. senator

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (R)—The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday urged a fundamental review of U.S. policy towards Saudi Arabia, saying the Saudis were a detriment to peace.

In a critical assessment of U.S. Middle East policy since last September's Camp David accords, Senator Frank Church (Democrat, Idaho) said that Saudi Arabia was "far more a detriment to peace than we (the United States) are willing to admit."

He said the administration should examine the advisability of going ahead with the sale of 60 advanced F-15 fighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

"It is time for plain speaking with the government of Saudi Arabia," Senator Church said in a speech prepared for delivery to the anti-defamation league of B'nai B'rith, a major U.S. Jewish organisation, at Palm Beach, Florida. "I suggest that now is precisely the time to inform the Saudis that a 'special relationship' cannot be a one-way street."

See editorial, page 2

Senator Church noted that following the col-

lapse of the Shah of Iran, the United States had agreed to fly F-15 fighters into Saudi Arabia as a show of support and said it was taken as a sign that the administration intended to go through with the \$2.5 billion sale of F-15 and F-5E aircraft.

Despite these overtures, he said, Saudi Arabia had joined the "pan Arab chorus" in politically isolating Egypt, had threatened to invoke sanctions against Egypt and had "agreed to participate in the payment of billions of dollars to Syria and Jordan to stay out of the Camp David peace process."

Senator Church said the Saudis could not count on unequivocal U.S. support without demonstrating they were responsive to the fundamental U.S. concern over the conclusion of an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Senator Church said the United States had misjudged the situation in Iran and said he feared it was "equally cut off touch with the realities in Saudi Arabia."

He also said the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty should be signed in its present form and the United States should abandon efforts to "appease" Arab parties opposed to the Camp David approach by putting pressure on Israel.

Former Ethiopia official dies in jail

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (R)—Yilma Deressa, once a mainstay of former Emperor Haile Selassie's Ethiopian rule, has died of cancer in an Addis Ababa jail.

His son, Benyam Yilma Deressa, said the family recently learned that their father died on Jan. 20. He said his father, who was imprisoned five years ago with members of Emperor Haile Selassie's family and several other ministers, had been found innocent of any crime against the state by an enquiry commission established by the military government that overthrew the emperor in September 1974. Despite his exoneration, his wife was barred from visiting him and he died in jail.

During the Italian occupation of the country, Mr. Yilma, then a nationalist combatant, was jailed from 1937 to 1939 and put under house arrest from 1940 to 1941. After the Italian occupant forces left, he organised the country's first Ministry of Finance and became its chief executive. He had been educated at the London School of Economics.

From 1951 to 1956 he was Ethiopia's ambassador to the United Nations and negotiated

the federation between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which later led to the continuing secessionist Eritrean war. During this period, he also became ambassador to the United States, leaving his post in 1957.

As minister of foreign affairs from 1957 to 1959, he laid the groundwork for the formation in

1962 of the Organisation of African Unity, which has its seat in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

He held a number of cabinet positions before becoming a member of the Crown Council in 1970. The council advised the emperor on constitutional matters, including succession to the throne.

Philippines blocks harbour against more Viet refugees

MANILA, Feb. 2 (R)—The Philippines, faced with the possible arrival of several thousand more unwanted Vietnamese refugees, today threw a naval blockade across Manila Bay to stop them from entering the harbour. A coast guard spokesman said the 30-kilometre wide blockade by coast guard cutters would remain as long as required.

At the same time a coast guard ship was sent to the southwestern island of Batayan where one of two refugee ships, believed to be carrying 1,000 refugees each, dumped at least 600 people yesterday.

Foreign Office officials said many of the refugees were women and children. They said they feared that syndicates trafficking in refugees were adopting new tactics and unloading them wherever they could do so undetected.

Officials said the vessel Ly Lu had slipped past navy ships to reach the island, then headed out to sea with at least one other refugee-packed boat. There were unconfirmed reports of a third vessel in the area. The navy has been ordered to find them, ensure they have adequate supplies and warn them not to try to re-enter Philippines waters.

The Philippines is trying to get rid of more than 2,000 refugees who have been aboard the Hing Kong-owned freighter Tung An in Manila Bay for five weeks, as well as more than 1,600 in a Manila refugee centre who arrived last year.

A further 31 sneaked into Manila in a fishing boat yesterday. They are tied alongside the Tung An awaiting a presidential decision on whether they will be permitted to stay despite a general order against allowing any more refugees to land. The Philippines has said it may have to send the Tung An to Hong Kong next week unless more Western countries agree to accept refugees from the ship.

FBI arrests alleged uranium extortionist

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (R)—FBI agents arrested a worker at a North Carolina uranium plant today and recovered about 68 kilogrammes of uranium he was alleged to have stolen as part of an extortion plot.

The FBI said the worker, identified as William Pahr, 31, was captured in a search of his home in the town of Lumberton, North Carolina.

Pahr was attacked by two men while he was mugging a passer-by in a hotel room, the FBI said. He was admitted to a hospital with a head injury and was released.

Ugandan official says no wrestling here

TOKYO, Feb. 2 (R)—Reports that Ugandan President Idi Amin is fighting a leading Japanese wrestler are completely groundless, said Ambassador Samuson Bigombe, said yesterday in a statement. "There is no truth in the story....that President Idi Amin of Uganda was to engage in a contest with Japanese wrestler Antonio Inoki is absolute complete fabrication and tends to demean the highest president of a friendly state," he said in a statement yesterday. "Antonio Inoki is a martial arts bout in Kampala on World Boxing Association heavyweight champion Muhammed Ali's suggestion, but instead pointed strongly to smoking as increased deaths.

U.N. report says Icelanders live longest

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 2 (R)—Life expectancy in Iceland is the highest in the world, according to the latest issue of Nations demographic yearbook published yesterday. Women can expect to live 79 years, while men can look forward to contrast, most Africans average less than 50 years, while countries like India, China, Mexico and Brazil have life expectancy of less than 20 years, while European, Japanese and North American women live about 70 years, and men about 70.

FBI arrests alleged uranium extortionist

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (R)—FBI agents arrested a worker at a North Carolina uranium plant today and recovered about 68 kilogrammes of uranium he was alleged to have stolen as part of an extortion plot.

Today was the deadline for the man to hand over the money he was believed to have stolen.

The arrested man is David Daley, 31, a worker at the plant.

The first indication came when a red-brownish powder was found in the plant Monday together with a similar note.

A spokesman for the plant said: "We can't say if it's something complex, maybe a bomb."

An inventory showed that two large drums of plutonium oxide were missing.

The draft treaty requires Soviet heavy bombers to have "externally observable differences" if they carry long-range Cruise missiles.

Enough Senators have questioned the wisdom of trusting Soviet pledges to make it appear that the administration will have difficulty obtaining a required two-thirds approval.

Defence Secretary Harold Brown told the house committee that the Backfire would automatically be classified a strategic weapon and thus counted in SALT totals if it were armed with Cruise missiles with ranges of more than 600 kilometres.

Yesterday, U.S. Government sources confirmed a report in the Baltimore Sun newspaper that new intelligence reports said eight Soviet tests—one as recently as two weeks ago—concerned long-range Cruise missiles launched from the Backfire.

Under the proposed treaty, however, the U.S. would count it against the weapons ceiling set for Moscow if it carried Cruise missiles.

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All this has been compared with the situation in Holland, where the opposition has been opposing the plan, implying Amsterdam's price of 100 million guilders.

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Non-whites suffer as result of S. Africa's segregated housing

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 2 (R)—A cluster of tents and tarpaulin-covered furniture on a pavement in the dilapidated Johannesburg suburb of Fordburg has spotlighted South Africa's policy of segregated housing.

The camp shelters an Indian family of eight evicted from their house on Monday by the government's Department of Community Development, and the Rev. Rob Robertson, a Presbyterian minister campaigning for more and better houses for the country's non-whites, who is giving the family moral support.

Salesman Kaghubathy Naidu, his wife, three daughters and three married relatives lost their home for contravening the Group Areas Act which enforces strictly segregated living areas for each of the country's four racial groupings—whites, blacks, Asians and coloureds (mixed-race).

Mr. Naidu said that after being told in 1977 to move out of Fordburg, he applied for rehousing in Lenasia, the city's only Indian township, but as the waiting list was so long he would not qualify for at least another three years. He said his family would stay in the street until they were rehoused by the government as they had nowhere else to go.

A spokesman for the Department of Community Development would not comment on the eviction. But he said there were 3,416 Indian families waiting for houses in Lenasia. The department hoped to complete 264 new houses this year and there were plans for more than 3,000 dwellings in 1980.

But Mr. Robertson said figures released by the city council last year showed at least 5,000 new homes were needed to decently house all the city's Indians.

Mr. Robertson, who has erected a tent and joined the Naidu family on the pavement "to give support and to help guard the furniture," said the department's eviction policy was simply adding to the housing shortage.

"Mr. Naidu is the first Indian to my knowledge who has not merely accepted eviction and simply crowded in with relatives so worsening the housing situation," Mr. Robertson said.

Fordburg and the neighbouring suburb of Mayfair attract increasing numbers of homeless Indians and coloured people despite the Group Areas Act. And some landlords in the crumpling working-class areas who have difficulty renting their houses to whites are keen to ignore the act.

The city's Indian community is also coming under fire in the whites-only apartment area of Hillbrow, where many more are living illegally.

Landlords in central Johannesburg are the target of a campaign by an ultra-right wing pressure group, the National Front, to clear the area of non-whites.

And non-white tenants of four years who said they moved to hillbrow in desperation are being evicted. One landlord said he feared prosecution "now that the National Front are helping the government to throw out these unfortunate people."

In Fordburg, Mr. Robertson, who said he had been trying to persuade the government and the council to do something about the housing shortage for more than a year, said he would continue his pavement vigil. "I would like Mr. Naidu to know there are some whites who feel ashamed of what has been done in their name," he said.

Europe's market in share options

By Terry Byland

LONDON: The U.S. businessman has always seen himself as the true pioneer of capitalism, committed to the pursuit of free enterprise to a degree never equalled by his European counterparts, and he is often quite correct.

American business abhors competition and rejects the suggestion that any business sector, be it banking, medicare, or pension insurance, can regard itself as above the fray.

But American capitalism has not always travelled well when exported to Europe, where stock exchanges, to name but one example, have proved unwilling to accept the full implications of naked competition.

It is beginning to look as though the market in traded share options—Chicago's latest contribution to the world of business—has suffered a severe bout of sea sickness during the transatlantic voyage.

For there is now a marked divergence of experience between the U.S. markets in share options, which go from strength to

strength, and those in Europe, which look more and more like weak sisters at the end of the first year of trading approaches.

The concept of trading in options on shares, as distinct from simply taking an option and then waiting for the due time before deciding what to do with it, was born in Chicago in April 1978.

Share options now attract investors by the millions in the U.S. and are traded on every major American exchange, except for the New York Stock Exchange.

It is